

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2005**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Jesse Benton, age 27, Otis Silver, age 28, both of Hampton, Virginia; Kevin Delk, age 30, Robert Green, age 28, Kevin Callicutt, age 30, Gary Furbush, age 36, Joseph Butler, age 38, Jonathan Hough, age 23, Michael Stephenson, age 21, Tony Julius Stephenson, Sr., age 45, and Tony Julius Stephenson, II, age 22, all of Newport News, Virginia, were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Newport News, Virginia, on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine base ("crack") and cocaine, distributing crack and cocaine and various firearms offenses. Each defendant faces up to life in prison and a fine of \$4 million.

The charges arose following a two-year investigation by a joint task force comprised of special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement officers from the Newport News Police Department. The joint task force began investigating the defendants as part of an effort to combat drug related violence in Newport News and Hampton, Virginia. On April 14, 2005, eight of the defendants were arrested during a major operation involving over 85 local, state, and federal agents. Gary Furbush surrendered to authorities, Jonathan Hough was in state custody on unrelated charges, and Otis Silver remains at large. In addition to the arrests, five search warrants and two seizure warrants were executed on the Virginia Peninsula.

Michael Stephenson, Tony Julius Stephenson, Sr., and Tony Julius Stephenson II, will each have a detention hearing on April 19, 2005, at 11:30 a.m. in Norfolk, Virginia. Jesse Benton, Kevin Delk, Robert Green, Kevin Callicutt, Gary Furbush, Joseph Butler, Jonathan Hough will have their detention hearings on April 19, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. in Norfolk, Virginia.

Assistant United States Attorney Eric M. Hurt is prosecuting the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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